

## **Historic Conservation Campaign Protects Greater Sage-Grouse**

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines federal land management plans and partnerships with states, ranchers and NGOs avert ESA listing*

An unprecedented, landscape-scale conservation effort across the western United States has significantly reduced threats to the greater sage-grouse across 90 percent of the species' breeding habitat and enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conclude that the charismatic rangeland bird does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This collaborative, science-based greater sage-grouse strategy is the largest land conservation effort in U.S. history.

Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made the announcement on September 22 on Twitter with a video that explains why the sage-grouse decision is historic and sets the groundwork for a 21st century approach to conservation.

The Service reached this determination after evaluating the bird's population status, along with the collective efforts by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, private landowners and other partners to conserve its habitat. Despite long-term population declines, sage-grouse remain relatively abundant and well-distributed across the species' 173-million-acre range.

After a thorough analysis of the best available scientific information and taking into account ongoing key conservation efforts and their projected benefits, the Service has determined the bird does not face the risk of extinction now or in the foreseeable future and therefore does not need protection under the ESA.

To read the entire announcement: <http://1.usa.gov/1Q1T4La>